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THE AMERICAN COLLEGE BULLETIN

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SHALL WE HAVE A NATIONAL DRIVE IN BEHALF OF OUR SCHOOLS?

There is no more need to argue the question as to the value of the school than there is as to the value of the Church or the home. The friends of education of every grade and type are bestirring themselves to guarantee that educational work shall not be neglected to the detriment of the cause of liberty. The children must not be sacrificed—at least not yet. The future is big in the present.

A most admirable thing has been done by the educational forces of Indiana. With the co-operation of Governor Goodrich of that state, Indiana's educators, working through the speakers bureau of the State Council of Defense observed the week of April 22-29 as Educational Week. The Governor's proclamation designating that week as educational week is a classic. In scores of cities and towns speakers sent out by the colleges and universities addressed high school students on the importance of their staying in school and finishing their courses of study. The state did itself honor in thus recognizing the schools as the formative centers of the democracy we are fighting to preserve.

The State Federation of Colleges and Universities of Illinois is now actively engaged in a similar program, working through the Illinois State Council of Defense at Chicago and the State Department of Public Instruction at Springfield. A proposal to inaugurate a similar campaign in other states is now under consideration.

The question is now asked—should not a national campaign be conducted in behalf of education? This campaign should be under the auspices of the United States Bureau of Education and should be participated in by the representatives of all the schools—state, independent and denominational. The machinery for such a campaign is already set up. Perhaps the National Council of Defense would do on a nationwide scale what the Indiana Council of Defense has already done. Then it will be recalled that the Emergency Council on Education has been formed for just such a purpose as this and most of the leading educational organizations of national scope are members of the Council. It

is of interest to the readers of the Bulletin that the President of this Council, which represents the greatest achievement in the mobilization of higher education this country has seen, is the President of the Association of American Colleges. This Association has already made a splendid contribution to the higher educational life of our country and it would seem that the time is now ripe not only for a forward movement in that education which is under distinctively Christian auspices, which is the avowed purpose of the Council of Church Boards of Education, but for all those educational forces which have as their ultimate purpose the making of a decent world in which to live. The question of a national campaign for education is now being considered by the officers of the Emergency Council on Education.

Harvard's Latest Pronouncement

Despite assurances by the President of the United States and by many officers of the government, military and civil, that students should go right on with their studies until called officially to some other service, there has been much unrest among students and among many advisors of students and much inclination to plunge at once into some form of service supposed to be of more immediate value to the government.

At the last regular monthly meeting of the faculty of arts and sciences of Harvard College the following resolution was passed:

"In view of the altered condition of military service consequent upon the entrance of the United States in the war, this faculty believes that the best conservation of the resources of the country for the prosecution of the war demands that students, save in exceptional cases, should persist in the faithful discharge of their college duties until they reach the age of twenty years and nine months, when they may enter on the regular training required for a commission."

Upon the publication of this resolution the editor of the Harvard Crimson criticized the action of the faculty, and his editorial brought forth the following reply by President A. Lawrence Lowell, which is worthy of wide distribution in these days of excitability:

"Your editorial criticising the action of the faculty in advising students to continue their college course until they reach the age required for the Government training camps expressed an opinion common among undergraduates; but you will permit me to say something in behalf of the faculty view.

"I respect and admire the spirit that makes the student who is under age desire to render immediate service in the war, especially where there is personal danger; and yet to do so

may not be the greatest service he can render to the country. Men who are responsible for the conduct of the war, who see the question in the large, who are thinking of the human resources of the nation as a whole, seem to be generally of the opinion that college students will be in the end more profitable if they continue their education until they are of age, and then use that education for the benefit of the Army (or in civil life if the war is over). Officers high in the army have expressed themselves in this way. In a letter received within a few days General Leonard Wood refers to 'the policy which you and I have been driving at, which is a sound one.' The boys are to finish their work at the college and not go until they are wanted and can be used to advantage."

"The opinion of such a man surely deserves careful consideration by undergraduates, and it would, I think, be concurred in by most older men who have thought much about the conduct of the war. At present there is no urgent demand for men under age. There are as many men on the draft list as the War Department can call out and use in the immediate future; but if students are to follow the advice of the Crimson there will soon be a lack of educated young men coming of age.

"I know that it is hard to stay at work here. It is harder to lie down under fire, than charge at a greater risk. But if it is one's duty it must be done, and the soldier does not neglect his duty. He does what is considered best for the contingent as a whole."

The American College Bureau

The Council of Church Boards of Education and the Association of American Colleges have been making a study of the problem of securing teachers for colleges; and the American College Bureau has been established to assist in this work. It is devoting its entire attention to filling college and university positions. College executives are already coming to the Bureau to talk over their possible needs just as they would go to their lawyers or physicians for professional advice and service. The Bureau is taking a personal interest in the problems of these executives. It has a professional interest in finding candidates of unquestionable fitness, rather than in securing a commission by inducing an employer to engage a candidate who may prove to be unsuitable—in short, to find for each position not merely some fairly suitable candidate, but the fittest candidate available for the college executive who wishes to secure the best person with the least trouble and expense.

Never before has the need been so great for Christian men and women in the colleges and universities. More than ever before the college executive needs men and women not only of the highest ideals, but of positive Christian influence and activity. Not infrequently information is needed concerning which the President cannot inquire without being misunderstood, and to ascertain which might mean embarrassment both to the President and the candidate. The Bureau has unusual facilities for obtaining thorough and accurate information in regard to teachers.

In the commercial world we find large corporations turning to scientific employment experts for consultation and professional advice in regard to the employment of their help. Many corporations now have regularly organized Employment Departments who are directly responsible for the hiring of all employees. Several cities have Employment Managers' Associations which have regular meetings to discuss methods of rating and selecting employees. Sometimes a single organization selects employees for several firms. This method of engaging helpers is rapidly gaining recognition as one of the most essential elements in any well organized business, and now the United States Government has adopted this method, somewhat modified, in the Department of Personnel. What such a department or organization is in the commercial world, the American College Bureau expects to be in the educational world—an employment department for colleges and universities, to be called upon at all times when outside help of any kind is needed.

The Bureau expects to keep on file detailed records of a large number of men and women available for college and university positions—in fact, it will be a clearing house for accurate information concerning all kinds of teachers as well as candidates for such positions as President, Dean, Registrar, Private Secretary, Trained Nurse, Commandant, Athletic Director, etc.

The Bureau will appreciate having the college executives refer to it all miscellaneous applications, in order that it may make an investigation of the candidates if their records are not already on file. Among those who apply miscellaneous there are always some undesirable candidates, and it is essential for the protection of the college executive that the Bureau should know the unfit as well as the fit candidate. Not infrequently it is able to render a peculiarly valuable service by collecting and presenting facts not easily discovered, and which when known would render the candidate wholly ineligible.